

THE MONTHLY MEETING.

A Meeting of the Central Midwives Board was held at the Board Room, Caxton House, on Thursday, March 19th, Sir Francis Champneys presiding. It was notified that Sir Francis Champneys, Sir Shirley Murphy, Mr. E. Parker Young, and Mr. Golding Bird had been nominated by the bodies which they respectively represent to serve for the ensuing year.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE.

The Committee reported that further correspondence with Messrs. Ball and Redfern, with regard to the admission to the Examination of a candidate who had tendered a certificate of marriage in which the particulars appear to have been falsified, was considered.

It was resolved (a) That the Board is not satisfied with the explanation tendered by Messrs. Ball and Redfern. (The Chairman explained that they sent a certificate in which the errors had been corrected, and the falsehood in the first instance was thus apparent.) (b) That the matter be referred to the Registrar General to take such action as he thinks fit.

A letter was read from the County Medical Officer of Health for Herefordshire calling the attention of the Board to the attitude of the Magistrates of the Ross Petty Sessional Division in dealing with a case where an uncertified woman was prosecuted by the County Council for an infringement of Section 1 (2) of the Midwives Act, 1902.

It will be remembered that the case was reported in full in this JOURNAL. The chairman pointed out that it was a serious one in which the uncertified woman, prosecuted by the County Council, had the sympathy of the Bench and appeared to be mistress of the situation.

It was resolved that the matter be referred to the Privy Council and that the Chairman be asked to communicate with the Clerk of the Council on the subject.

A letter was read from the Clerk of the County Council of Hampshire enquiring whether, with a view to obtaining notification of stillbirths in all cases, the Rules could be so amended as to provide that the bodies of stillborn children should not be disposed of without medical certificate following upon an examination of the body.

It was resolved that the matter be considered at the next revision of the Rules.

A letter was read from the General Superintendent of the Essex County Midwifery and Cottage Nursing Association with reference to a pupil, the question of whose admission to the Examination had been deferred by the Board until one year after she had attained the age of twenty-one years in consequence of the fact that she had attempted to obtain admission by tendering a falsified certificate of birth.

It was resolved that under the circumstances the positions of the two ladies named are not acceptable to the Board. The chairman explained

that the Board did not consider the ladies sufficiently detached from the candidate to be acceptable as her referees.

A letter was read from the County Medical Officer of Health for Carmarthenshire urging the desirability of granting further facilities for the training of midwives within the County.

It was resolved that the County Medical Officer of Health for Carmarthenshire be informed that the Board considers that the standard of training requires raising at the earliest opportunity, and is not prepared to consider any proposal for lowering that standard.

APPLICATIONS FOR REMOVAL OF NAME FROM THE ROLL.

Applications were received from six certified midwives for the removal of their names from the Roll on account of ill-health and old age, and it was resolved that the applications be granted and that the Secretary be directed to remove their names from the Roll of Midwives and to cancel their Certificates.

APPOINTMENTS.

Examiner.—Dr. Aleck William Bourne, F.R.C.S., Obstetric Tutor at St. Mary's Hospital, and Surgical Registrar to the Samaritan Hospital, London.

Recognition as Teachers, under Rule C. 1.—Dr. Mary Van Ingen, and Harold FitzVellacott, Esq., F.R.C.S.

Approval under Rule C. 1 (2).—(Medical Practitioner), W. C. Griffiths, Esq. (Midwives), Miss Mary Brand, Miss Helen Wynne Edwards.

The lists of recognized institutions, recognized teachers, doctors approved for the practical work, and approved midwives, as revised by the Standing Committee were approved.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

In reference to the Order issued by the Local Government Board as to the notification of Ophthalmia Neonatorum the Chairman said that there were certain proposals to which the Board took exception. He had paid a personal visit, and also written to the Local Government Board. In his letter he pointed out that under the rules of the C.M.B. midwives were required to advise that medical assistance be summoned in any inflammation of the eyes, however slight; the L.G.B. required notification when there was a purulent discharge. For the midwife to wait till this was present was to court blindness. The Central Midwives Board did not require any diagnosis on the part of the midwives in relation to this question, they were not to think, but to act. Sir Francis Champneys further pointed out that the Local Government Board Order was liable to confuse the minds of midwives and that this Order and the rules of the C.M.B. as to ophthalmia neonatorum should harmonize.

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

It was agreed to apply to the bank for an overdraft of £500. This procedure was customary

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